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PP RUEHAST RUEHFL RUEHLA RUEHMRE RUEHPOD RUEHROV RUEHSR

DE RUEHC #0334 3180003

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P R 122358Z NOV 08

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 5431

INFO ORG FOR SECURITY CO OP IN EUR COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS STATE 120334

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OSCE PGOV PREL TIP

SUBJECT: OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL: RESPONSE TO THE SPECIAL  
REPRESENTATIVE BIAUDET

¶1. (U) Post is authorized to make the following statement  
at the November 13 meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in  
Vienna:

Begin Text:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is a pleasure to welcome Special Representative Biaudet to  
the Permanent Council today. Your report bears witness to  
the excellent work of your staff and highlights the ongoing  
importance of OSCE efforts to combat trafficking in human  
beings.

Efforts to accurately identify and appropriately assist  
victims of human trafficking remain high priorities for the  
United States, as do national and international efforts to  
effectively prosecute traffickers. We believe the Office of  
the Special Representative plays an important role in the  
fight against human trafficking. We commend your work to  
helping participating States meet anti-trafficking  
commitments and implement relevant Action Plan  
recommendations.

The United States recognizes the valuable work in the fight  
against trafficking in human beings done by the Office of the  
Special Representative, as well as equally important work in  
the sphere performed by ODIHR. We urged the Special  
Representative to consider how to find greater efficiency,  
perhaps through combining some of these complementary  
efforts.

We look forward to continued progress, and to the deepening  
of an integrated approach to preventing and combating  
trafficking in human beings across the OSCE region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

End text.

RICE